



Western Illinois University

DATE: July 8, 2020

TO: Campus and Community

FROM: Polly Radosh, Chair WIU Board of Trustees and
Co-Chair Presidential Search Committee

As we begin the public phase of the presidential search, I'd like to summarize for the campus and community what has been accomplished to date. I, along with co-chair Christopher Pynes and Trustee Mark Twomey, started meeting regularly in December 2019, within a few days of the Board of Trustees' vote to initiate a presidential search. We began by working on important preliminary and procedural details, including writing a campus profile to be sent to prospective search consulting companies, coordinating with the WIU Purchasing Office for the selection of a search company, and charging campus constituency groups to select search committee representatives. The selection process for committee membership began in January and the committee was set by late February.

We planned to interview prospective search consulting companies at the Board of Trustees meeting in March, but after COVID-19 forced us to cancel the meeting it was decided that the three of us would interview and recommend a search firm to the Board. From the three firms that submitted proposals and interviewed via Zoom with the search committee leadership, Greenwood/Asher was selected. With Board approval, a contract with Greenwood/Asher was moved through the University procurement process. Dr. Betty Asher and Ms. Alex Matthews will coordinate the WIU presidential search. They worked with the leadership team, EOA, and finally met with the full search committee on June 26, where the committee approved the position announcement and the advertisement. The ad will be placed in a variety of venues to promote a diverse and qualified applicant pool and Greenwood/Asher has begun to contact prospective applicants.

While much of the work done to date has been accomplished behind the scenes as a preliminary to the public phase, we have kept to a strict timetable, and moved each phase along as quickly as possible. To those unfamiliar with the pace of a search on a university campus, it might appear that little has happened to date. WIU is a public institution, with a strong commitment to inclusive decision-making. Matters such as committee selection took several weeks to accomplish as each constituency group has their own inclusive selection method. Similarly, the procurement procedures took several weeks. Each phase has its own timeline, but we are still on pace to have a successful search.

The position ad will run in a variety of high quality venues through the summer. Dr. Asher and Ms. Matthews will contact potential candidates as well as vetting nominations. By September we will have a roster of candidates for the search committee to review.

Preliminary, round one, interviews will be conducted in mid September. Round two interviews and campus visits will be in mid October, and it is our goal to have a list of three to five candidates for interview on campus and with the Board by mid November.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee, I thank the campus and community for their patience with the process and their commitment to an open and inclusive search. At this point, we are on track for an appointment of WIU's 12th president by the end of 2020.